

Ayton Angling Association-HuttonRudby Fly Fishing Club

Report on Fishing Tuition Days 2015

Five five-hour fishing tuition days have been held: three on the Ayton still water fishery at “Larners’ Lakes” near Great Ayton and two for smaller numbers on the River Leven.

The Ayton stillwater, is an excellent fishery with two connected lakes where a lot of work has been done to provide safe and easy access for all anglers and specially for disabled anglers. It is located in a quiet and beautiful wooded setting just below the Cleveland Hills. (See Figure 1) It is a perfect venue for fishing tuition to first-time participants. The Ayton members very generously gave up a day’s fishing just after the fishery was stocked so that the youngsters should have the best chance of catching fish. (See Figures 1 to 8)

A total of 16 Scouts and 4 school children attended the Stillwater sessions. 14 Scouts “Fishing Badges” were awarded. About half the youngsters caught fish. Seven girls participated and their success in terms both of casting skills and catching fish were at least equal to that of the boys – but perhaps we should not have to say that! This excellent result was largely due to the one-to-one tuition given by the members of the two clubs. It is specially important as our objective is to get young people keen on fishing and to do this they need to catch fish or at least see their friends catching fish. The Scout Leaders and parents were also very appreciative of the one-to-one tuition over 5-hour sessions, which we aim to make our standard in future years.

The two 5-hour river tuition sessions were attended by four youngsters. 15 natural, wild, brown river trout were caught in total. One-to one tuition was given but the circumstances of the river environment and child safety require the child to be accompanied at all times by a parent. This makes teaching numbers greater than three or four difficult to handle and it is clear the still water must be used for the basic training or for significant numbers of Scouts wanting to qualify for their Scout Fishing Badge.

A free barbecue was provided at every session. The youngsters were shown how to gut, clean and cook the fish they caught and they all shared the cooked fish. Barbecued sausages provided the standby and extra meals.

The two principal organisers, Jeff Mulroy and Scott Hansford, put a lot of preparation into the events. The Angling Trust coaches Jeff Metcalfe and Andy Lobel gave advice on the essential items to be covered for safety, child protection, skill training and proper record keeping but Scott and Jeff produced the risk assessments for the two venues, child protection policy, skill training matrix for each participant, the overall training plan and records of attendance and parental assent.

After the last session a review was held by the organisers and helpers to see what could be improved. Areas identified were: prior commitment of all parties, especially coaches and helpers, to the dates, a more specific child protection statement, a file of advice for coaches and

helpers, some queries to be made about the need for E.A. rod licences for participants in the absence of Level 2 coaches, the approach to schools with sympathetic head teachers. Altogether this was a very successful and encouraging start to a new way to encourage junior membership. This was due to the Ayton still water venue being perfect for teaching fishing but mainly to the efforts of the organisers and club members who put in around 250 hours of their time in total.



Figure 1 An inspiring venue



Figure 2 Getting ready



Figure 3 Well done!



Figure 4 Our first fish.



Figure 5 Anything you can do...



Figure 6 ...I can do too!



Figure 7 The art of fly tying.



Figure 8 Our two female stars at lunch.

John Gifford
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